Workshop on Natura 2000 Management
Threats, Challenges and Solutions
With a specific focus on management of forest and grassland habitats in the Alpine biogeographic region

12-14 September 2013, Hotel of the Southwest University, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

Agenda

**Day 1**

8:00 – 9:00  Breakfast

**Session I: Policy processes of Natura 2000 management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9:00 – 9:15 | **Greetings**  
|          | Stefan Kirilov, Director of Rila National Park                          |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | **Welcome and setting the scene**  
|          | Stefan Avramov, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation                      |
| 9:30 – 11:00 | **The state of play of Natura 2000 management and financing at the national level**  
|          | (Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania)                          |
|          | Country updates by participants                                          |

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:15  EU processes addressing forest conservation: the Natura 2000 and forestry guideline  
Pawel Pawlaczyn, Naturalists Club Poland

12:15 – 13:00  EU processes addressing forest conservation: the wilderness management guideline  
Zoltán Kun, PAN Parks Foundation (via skype)

13:00 – 13:30  Questions and answers

13:30 – 14:30  Lunch

**Session II: Management of Natura 2000 Alpine habitats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 14:30 – 15:15 | **Forests in the Alpine region: overview on the threats, management challenges and possible solutions**  
|            | Pawel Pawlaczyn, Naturalists Club Poland                                 |
| 15:15 – 16:00 | **Bulgarian national examples on forest and Alpine Natura 2000 sites**  
|            | Stanislav Lazarov, freelance forest engineer                           |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Questions and answers                                                   |

16:30 – 17:00  Coffee Break

17:00 – 17:30  Threats and management recommendations for Carpathian grasslands in the light of climate change  
Ildikó Arany, CEEweb for Biodiversity

17:30 – 18:15  **Natura 2000 habitats in the Alpine region: adapted management considering butterflies and insects**  
Matthias Dolek, Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE)

18:14 – 18:45  Questions and answers

19:00  Dinner
Day 2

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast

Session III: Preparation for the Alpine seminar

9:00 – 10:00 Introduction to the Alpine Biogeographical Process and the role of NGOs in the preparation for the Alpine seminar
Mathilde Stolleger, Umweltachverband/Martina Mlinaric, EEB

10:00 – 11:45 NGO preparation for the Alpine Seminar: parallel groups on forest and grasslands habitats
Based on the Alpine workshop report, participants read through the issues identified and actions proposed in the Alpine Workshop and compile comments and further recommended actions.

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch

Field visit to good examples of Alpine forest management

Parangalitsa Reserve in Rila National Park
Parangalitsa Reserve, declared a nature reserve in 1933, is located on the southwest slope of the Rila Mountains, and covers an area of 1,509 hectares. In 1977, the reserve was added to the list of biospheres recognized by UNESCO under the auspices of its “People and Biospheres” program. Parangalitsa is home to one of the oldest spruce forests in Europe. The trees there are on average over 200 years old. The forests offer favourable conditions for the growth of more than 290 species of larger flora and a wide range of fauna, many of which are listed in Bulgaria’s Red Book of endangered and protected species.

Rila Monastery Forest reserve in Natura Park Rilski manastir
Reserve Rila Monastery Forest was declared to protect the primary forest ecosystems of coniferous and mixed forests, the habitats of rare and endangered species and the natural environment of the architectural reserve "Rila Monastery". Its surface is 3,676,5 ha. The Reserve is a model of mixed deciduous-coniferous forests with participation of mainly fir and beech. The fauna includes Balkan Chamois, Marten, Bear, Wolf, Capercaillie. The site formulates the Important Bird Area Rila, hosting high number of rare bird species of European importance.

20:00 Dinner

Day 3

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast

Session III (continued)

9:00 – 9:30 Results of the 2nd day’s parallel group discussion on forest and grasslands habitats is reported back to the plenary

9:30 – 11:00 Drafting the NGO brochure: compiling recommendations and good examples for some highlighted issues on forest management

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

Session IV: Plans for future actions

11:30 – 13:00 Work planning for 2014
13:00 – 13:15 Conclusions and closing the workshop

13:15 Lunch and farewell

The event is financially supported by the European Commission.